

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (Tovala): May I know whether any steps have been taken to remove that congestion?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Ag. Director of Public Instruction): Yes, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (Tovala): May I know the nature of the steps taken?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Ag. Director of Public Instruction): May I know, Sir, whether these questions are in order?

PRESIDENT: No, the member's questions are not in order.

Places of public worship for Christians.

76. *MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (Kunmatnad I): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permission to open places of public worship for the Christians needs the previous assent of the Devaswom Commissioner?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): No.

Central Cocoanut Committee.

77. *MR. K. SANKARAN (Kartikapalli I): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the several steps that are being taken by the Ceylon Government to promote the welfare of the cocoanut cultivators and to protect the cocoanut industry in Ceylon;

(b) whether they have thought of any definite scheme by which the ruinous fate of the cocoanut cultivators of the State could be improved;

(c) what steps they have taken to protect Travancore cocoanut cultivators from the unhealthy competition from Ceylon; and

(d) whether they have thought of the advisability of appointing a Central Cocoanut Committee to advise the Government from time to time as to how to protect and promote the interests of the cocoanut cultivators of the State?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government):

(a) Yes.

(b) They have already taken steps in that direction and have accordingly reduced the export duty on copra, cocoanuts, oil and punnac from 1-1-1110.

(c) Representations have been made to the Government of India to enhance the import duties and tariff values of cocoanuts, copra, cocoanut oil, coir-yarn and coir-fibre imported into British India from foreign countries.

(d) Yes. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been moved for the formation of a Central Cocoanut Committee on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee. The formation of a Cocoanut Committee in Travancore is also under the consideration of Government.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know whether it is the view of Government that, by reducing the export duty on copra, the condition of the cocoanut cultivators will substantially improve?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has given some relief to the cocoanut cultivators though not substantial relief.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know whether that is the only possible thing for Government to do by way of improving the lot of the cocoanut cultivators?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is the other question of reducing the import duties on Ceylon cocoanuts and copra. I have already stated that that question is engaging the attention of the Government of India. Again, there is the question of improving the cultivation of cocoanut by intensive methods. Probably greather relief could be afforded by the complete abolition of the export duty. But Government are not prepared to consider that question now.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know whether the Government could find out new markets for our cocoanuts?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have a Trade Agent at Bombay who is engaged in that work.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know, apart from the Trade Agent, whether any new markets have been explored by Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Trade Agent at Bombay is doing something in that direction. He is trying to increase the export of our cocoanut products to northern India, to places like Delhi and Lucknow. In due course, I am sure cocoanut cultivators here will be benefited by the Trade Agent's activities.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know, which place has got a market for our cocoanuts?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I know that our cocoanuts are being consumed in those parts. All that I say is that there is considerable scope for the expansion of this trade in those parts.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Will the Government be pleased to ascertain the reasons which enabled the Ceylon producers to sell their cocoanut products at such cheap rates?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government have not enquired into it.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Will the Government be pleased to ascertain that?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a big problem. Somebody has to go to Ceylon and study the conditions. I do not know whether it is worth while at this stage to do it.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the Ceylon Government have deputed their men to Travancore to study about coir yarn and other products?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): In view of that answer, may I know whether this Government considers it worthwhile to send some of their officers to Ceylon to study the problem there?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may be considered.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Regarding answer to part (d) may I know how long the question of the formation of a Coconut Committee was under the consideration of Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): For the last one year or so, I think.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Karthikapalli I*): May I know the particular reasons that prevented Government from coming to a conclusion on the subject?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer says that Government have referred the matter to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. It would be better if an all-India Committee could be organised on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will take up the question and come to a decision.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): So, am I to understand, that that question is to wait till the Central Cotton Committee is formed?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A committee could be formed independent, too. But the Government thought that it would be better by if possible, to organise an all-India Committee embracing not only Travancore, but also Cochin and Malabar, which are the three important coconut cultivating areas.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In reference to part (a) of the answer, may I know, what are the several steps taken by the Ceylon Government to which the attention of this Government has been drawn?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Ceylon Government have organised a Coconut Research Bureau. They have conducted a coconut exhibition recently.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know what those steps are?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no more information than what I have given. I have to make further enquiries into the matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Are those the only steps taken by Government to which their attention was drawn?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether those steps could not be taken in this country also?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As I have said already, the question of forming a Coconut Research Committee is engaging the attention of Government. That is one of the important steps taken in Ceylon.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether this Government had deputed an officer to Ceylon to get first-hand information obtaining there?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether that officer has submitted any report?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether any action has been taken on that report?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One of the chief recommendations of that officer is that an exhibition on the lines of the one conducted in Colombo must be organised in Travancore and it is under the consideration of Government.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): In answer to part (b), may I know whether they have considered the question of reducing freight and whether they have addressed the shipping companies or railway companies in connection with that?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, they have.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, with what result?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The companies have stated that they will not reduce the freights.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Travancore Government have any idea with regard to the difference in the rates that the Travancore exporters have to bear and the concession rate available in regard to railway concerns?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are some differences. But I cannot say exactly what they are.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): May I know whether any Travancore officer with the experience of fiscal science was sent to represent Travancore in the Board of Agricultural Research?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already said, in answer to a question, that the Director of Agriculture was present at the meeting of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. I do not know whether he has studied "fiscal science".

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): May I know from the member whether, in the course of studies pursued by the Director of Agriculture, fiscal science has got a part?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One who studies agriculture has also to study economics and agricultural economy in particular; I do not think he has to study regular fiscal science.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Is not a knowledge of economic condition, customs duties and other things necessary for the proper discharge of his duties?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. CHANGANACHERRY K. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): May I know from the member whether the report of the officer deputed to the exhibition at Ceylon is printed and published?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question of printing that report is under the consideration of the Government. It will be printed and published.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that Ceylon is importing large quantities of rice to South India?

PRESIDENT: We are now on the question of cocoanut.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know on what basis the tariff value on cocoanut products was reduced? Is it according to the market value?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, not according to the market value.

POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Shertala II*): May I know from the member whether the export duty on coir yarn has been reduced?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Shertala II*): May I know the reason?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because there was no appreciable fall in the price of coir yarn.

Co-operative movement.

78. ***MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have decided to reorganise the co-operative movement in accordance with the recommendations of the Devadhar Committee Report; and

(b) if so, the time required for it?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (a) and (b). Government have agreed to allow both Houses of Legislature to discuss the Devadhar Committee Report and to decide the question of the reorganisation of the co-operative movement after hearing the opinion of the legislative bodies on the Report.